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RECEIVED

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

JAN 24 2003

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Ex Parte in CC Docket Nos: 00-256, 96-45, 98-77, and 98-166

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, January 23, 2003, David Bartlett ALLTEL Communications, Inc., Michael Skrivan of Madison River Communications LLC, Robert DeBroux of TDS Telecommunications Corporation, and I (collectively referred to as the "Company Representatives" met with the following staff members of the Wireline Competition Bureau: Jane Jackson, Rich Lerner, Jeff Dygert, Doug Slotten, and Jay Atkinson.

The subject of our discussion was the consideration of the *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in the above-referenced proceedings. Specifically, the topics discussed included the policy aspects associated with the development and consideration of an alternative regulatory structure contemplated by the *Further Notice*. In this regard the Company Representatives discussed the possibility of utilizing the Commission's Part 61.39 rules as a basis of a proposal that would provide an additional tariff filing option for all rural telephone companies without increasing any administrative or regulatory burdens on those small companies that currently qualify to utilize the Part 61.39 rules.

The Company representatives explained how the proposal would function and how benefits would result for all parties: end user customers, interexchange carriers, and the rural telephone companies that are not currently qualified to utilize the Part 61.39 rules. The Company Representatives also expressed their intent to provide the Commission with a written *ex parte* in which they will set forth their proposal in detail.

Please direct any questions regarding this to me at (202)296-9055.

Sincerely,


G. Kraskin